

Valerie Peterson
Exalted Ruler

**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
A Fraternal Organization
Jackson Lodge No. 1713
Chartered July 17th, 1947**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSON ELKS LODGE SUPPORTS BOY SCOUTS' ANNUAL ELK ANTLER PICK-UP

Jackson, WY – On Saturday April 22nd at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Elk Refuge, over 66 Boy and Cub Scouts, 78 Scout leaders, and 5 members of Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 gathered for the Annual Boy Scout Antler Pickup. This Jackson Hole tradition is the predecessor to the 50th annual Jackson Boy Scout District Elk Antler Auction on the Jackson Town Square on Saturday May 20th, 2017.

Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 filled a gap in the Boy Scouts' annual antler pickup. "We had a great group of volunteers that would help us feed the Scouts in years past," Jackson Boy Scout District Program Director and Elk member Gary Edington said. Edington continued, "When those volunteers were unable to help any longer, the Elks stepped up and we are very thankful."

Elks members helped to feed over a hundred hungry volunteers as they came in from the field after a long day of searching for elk antlers. On the menu was chili, hot dogs, sandwiches, cookies, and hot chocolate donated by local businesses. "The Elks Lodge supplies volunteers to serve, and McDonald's, Wendy's, Subway, Smith's, Albertson's, and the Jackson Whole Grocer donate the food," Jackson Elks Lodge No. 1713 Exalted Ruler Valerie Peterson stated. Edington added, "This sort of teamwork is what the Jackson Hole community is all about." Another valued donor was Macy's Services, who provided handwashing stations and porta johns.

"Supporting this event is a great experience for our Lodge," said Peterson. "We have a chance to feed the Scouts, help the National Elk Refuge, and work alongside other community organizations," Peterson continued. The Elks organization shares the same values as the Boy Scouts of America, and helping at this event also furthers the Elks mission of supporting youth.

Every spring, thousands of elk wintering on the National Elk Refuge lose their antlers before they migrate to their summer range. The Boy and Cub Scouts from Jackson troops 66, 67, 68, and 268 assist the Refuge with harvesting the shed antlers and at the annual Jackson District Boy Scout Elk Antler Auction they sell them to bidders from around the world who make furniture, wall decorations, jewelry and food products from them. This annual event supports the National Elk Refuge with a large portion of auction proceeds going back to habitat enhancement projects on the Refuge.

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The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was founded in 1868 to promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship. Today the Elks are a fraternal order of nearly one million members with a network of more than 2,000 lodges in communities across the country. Annually the Order spends more than \$80,000,000 for benevolent, educational, and patriotic community-minded programs.

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